

Memories of mutiny mark Delhi neighborhood

Crumbling gravestones testify to India's colonial past

By MICHAEL BROWNING

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the neighborhood.

Today the bustle and modern Delhi has captured the neighborhood. Trucks and cars ring the air with the haze of their exhausts. Still, men sleep on rope beds.

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The camp pulpit tree is gone, but old St. James Church still stands, in 1857 its chaplain, Midgeley, was shot to death by a mob of 100 men, murdered by the mobbers there. Fighting took place within their precincts, and a bullet-riddled wooden pulpit, which once stood in its cupola was displayed in the church garden until 1935 when, as a local guidebook explains, it was removed to the cemetery.

Inside the cool, shadowy octagonal church, beneath hanging ceiling fans, the bygone days of the 19th century are evoked by the stained-glass windows and affecting epitaphs of those who perished in the brutality. St. James' is a lovely place to visit.

her, the daughter of a Scotsman and an Indian princess, who also founded one of the most famous boarding schools in the country. Skinner's Horse, still on active duty today. Skinner himself is buried beneath a venerable chestnut tree in a graveyard. He wore his Christianity lightly, at least in the matter of matrimony: He had 14 wives.

Here, loitering in cool letters on stone, are the mournful records of a hot, horrifying summer.

*Sacred to the memory of
Gen. Berneford Ege
Sarah Berneford his wife
and their five dear children
Rebecca, Charlotte, Emily,
Agnes and Ellen,
All of whom fell victims to the
Malaria of the Mexican Army
At Del Rio in May 1857—
Their sun is gone down
While it is yet day . . .*

Another says:

*John and Anna Hutchinson
Esq., R.C.S.*

*He did not shrink
He did not shrink
Though warned of the danger
From discharging his duty
As Magistrate of Delhi*

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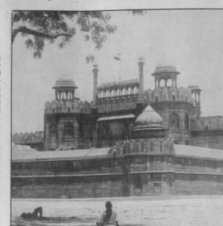
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RED FORT: A New Delhi landmark today, it was in 1857 the site of

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British fathers and Indian mothers, flashed the news of the mutiny to Umballa, whence it was hand-carried to Simla, where the viceroy, Lord Canning, was spending the summer.

The bicycle tires flung over the granite needle are a modern jest, withering fire, still stands, and its outer face is deeply gashed with cannonball holes. Nicholson himself was shot in the assault at the nearby Kabul gate and died, after lingering in agony for nine days. His tomb is still visible nearby, in a dilapidated cemetery

Scene of the siege

One of the first cities to fall, Delhi was also the scene of tremendous fighting and the siege that led to its recapture was one of the climaxes of the Mutiny.

It was led by Gen. John Nicholson, only 35 years old but already one of the living legends of British India.

named after him. Plot No. 42A, Grave No. 54. The epitaph is simple and soldierly.

*The grave of
Brigadier General
John Nicholson
who
led the assault of Delhi
but fell
in the hour of victory
mortally wounded
and died*

Pale, black-bearded and gray-eyed, Nicholson hated India and despised Indians. He advocated "killing alive, impalement or burning of the murderers of women and children." Yet the force of his personality was such that he became a god, worshipped in the Punjab while still alive and for decades after his death as a "secular saint" called the "Nakhsatra Rajah." Vestiges of his cult survived in northern India until the turn of the

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